

August 2016

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## A deadly flood that helped improve weather forecasting

Forty years ago, the Big Thompson flood of July 31, 1976 was one of three major flash floods during the span of five years that killed more than 450 people across the country -- tragic events that helped spur the modernization of NOAA's National Weather Service flood forecasting system.

### IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Birgit Hassler of CSD and Bob Evans of GMD will receive awards from the International Ozone Commission in September.
- CSD and GMD play key roles in the Atmospheric Tomography Mission (ATom), focused on the impacts of human-produced air pollution. Research flights began at the end of July.
- NCEI's update to the Earth Magnetic Anomaly Grid (EMAG2) provides a better view of Earth's magnetic deviations.
- Jim Butler speaks about climate change at the Redline Gallery, a non-profit contemporary art center in Denver, on August 20 and addresses farmers and local citizens at Ollin Farms in Longmont on August 21.
- Save the date: On August 10 there is a Tribal Relations Seminar – American Indians 101, sponsored by OAR's EEO/Diversity Office and the DOC Boulder Labs Diversity Council.

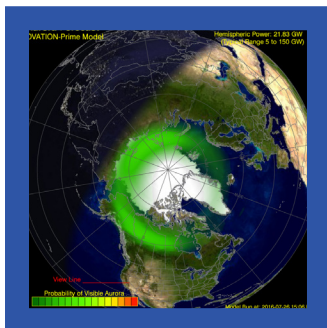
### TRENDING

- New SOS dataset from NASA: Visualization of our oceans' "garbage patches." Latest count: 56K FB views and 1,090 shares.



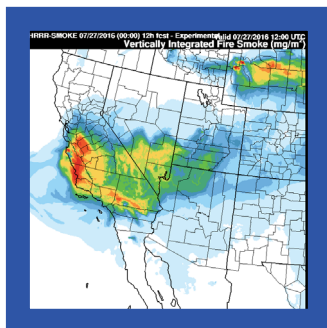
The Big Thompson flood, on July 31, 1976, dumped up to 12 inches of rain in about four hours, killing 144 and destroying 570 homes and businesses.

### SPOTLIGHT



#### Three things to like about DSCOVR, your new space weather satellite

On July 27, data from NOAA's first deep space weather satellite, orbiting a million miles away, made its way into the hands of forecasters at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center.



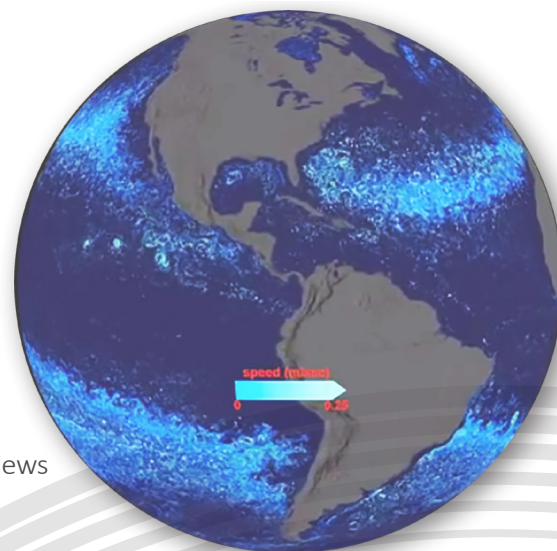
#### Forecasters are giving feedback to improve GSD's experimental HRRR-Smoke

The experimental HRRR-Smoke model is getting a real-time test with Western U.S. wildfires. Several groups have been using the model to help advise the public on air quality and visibility issues caused by western wildfires.



#### A new West Coast "picket fence" of observations

This month in Santa Barbara, CA, engineers from ESRL's PSD will install the last of seven semi-permanent, compact wind profilers, creating a "picket fence" of monitoring stations along the West Coast to help address water resource and flood protection concerns.



56k views

\*The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado Boulder and the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIIRA) at Colorado State University are part of NOAA's research community.

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